

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 22 are currently pending in the application. Claims 3 through 22 have been amended herein to reorder the claims as requested by the Examiner. No substantive changes have been made to the text of the claims. No new matter has been entered to the disclosure as the amendment clearly complies with 35 U.S.C. § 132. The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended and replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for improving the use of printing devices in a network computer system, comprising:
determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device;
determining the options available for each of said at least one printing devices;
determining any installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device; and
determining a way to optimize said at least one printing device from said usage characteristics, said available options and said installed options.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising suggesting at least one change to said at least one printing device for optimizing the use of said at least one printing device with said network computer system.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said suggesting at least one change to said at least one printing device for optimizing the use of said at least one printing device with said network computer system comprises suggesting an option selected from the group consisting of using a toner miser function, turning on a job retention memory, and suggesting other printing device configurations.

~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises determining the usage characteristics of all printing devices operating on said network computer system.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises determining the usage characteristics of all printing devices operating on said network computer system.

~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises monitoring said at least one printing device to determine said usage characteristics.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises monitoring said at least one printing device to determine said usage characteristics.

~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises retrieving said usage characteristics from a database.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises retrieving said usage characteristics from a database.

~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises determining at least one usage characteristic selected from the group consisting of paper use rate, toner use rate, power use rate, time of print job request, consumable use per job rate, and print job request rate.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises determining at least one usage characteristic selected from the group consisting of paper use rate, toner use rate, power use rate, time of print job request, consumable use per job rate, and print job request rate.
~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the options available for each of said at least one printing devices comprises retrieving available options from a database.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the options available for each of said at least one printing devices comprises retrieving available options from a database.
~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the options available for each of said at least one printing devices comprises querying said at least one printing device to retrieve said available options.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the options available for each of said at least one printing devices comprises querying said at least one printing device to retrieve said available options.
~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the options available for each of said at least one printing devices comprises querying a web site for said available options.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the options available for each of said at least one printing devices comprises querying a web-site for said available options.
~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining any installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device comprises retrieving installed options from a database.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining any installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device comprises retrieving installed options from a database.

~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining any installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device comprises querying said at least one printing device to retrieve said available options.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining any installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device comprises querying said at least one printing device to retrieve said available options.

~~The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a way to optimize said at least one printing device from said usage characteristics, said available options and said installed options comprises using fuzzy logic to determine said way to optimize said at least one printing device.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a way to optimize said at least one printing device from said usage characteristics, said available options and said installed options comprises using fuzzy logic to determine said way to optimize said at least one printing device.

~~A method for suggesting printing device options in a network computer system, comprising:
operating a device management program on a computer connected to a network
communication;~~

~~determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device with said device
management program;~~

~~operating a computer program on said computer;~~

~~using said computer program to determine the options available for said at least one printing
device;~~

~~using said computer program to determine any installed options on said at least one printing
device; and~~

~~using said computer program to determine an optimal set of options for said printing device.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising suggesting at least one service to incorporate with said at least one printing device for providing enhanced usage of said at least one printing device.

~~The method of claim 13, wherein said using said computer program to determine the options available for said at least one printing device comprises:
connecting to the Internet; and
querying a web site for information about said at least one printing device.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said suggesting at least one service to incorporate with said at least one printing device comprises suggesting at least one service selected from the group consisting of a maintenance service, a charge per page service, and a printing device monitoring service.

~~The method of claim 13, wherein said computer program is configured to communicate with said device management program.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A method for suggesting printing device options in a network computer system, comprising:
operating a device management program on a computer connected to a network
communication;
determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device with said device
management program;
operating a computer program on said computer;
using said computer program to determine the options available for said at least one printing
device;
using said computer program to determine any installed options on said at least one printing
device; and

using said computer program to determine an optimal set of options for said printing device.
~~The method of claim 13, wherein said computer program is a component of said device
management program.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said using said computer program to determine the options available for said at least one printing device comprises:

connecting to the Internet; and

querying a web-site for information about said at least one printing device.

~~The method of claim 13, wherein using said computer program to determine an optimal set of options for said printing device comprises using said computer program to compare said installed options with said available options.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said computer program is configured to communicate with said device management program.

~~A system for optimizing the use of printing devices on a network computer system, comprising:~~

~~a computer connected to said network computer system; and~~

~~a computer program for optimizing the use of at least one printing device accessible to said computer.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said computer program is a component of said device management program.

~~The system of claim 18, wherein said computer program for optimizing the use of at least one printing device is integrated with a device management program.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein using said computer program to determine an optimal set of options for said printing device comprises using said computer program to compare said installed options with said available options.

~~The method of claim 2, wherein said suggesting at least one change to said at least one printing device for optimizing the use of said at least one printing device with said network computer system comprises suggesting an option selected from the group consisting of using a toner miser function, turning on a job retention memory, and suggesting other printing device configurations.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A system for optimizing the use of printing devices on a network computer system, comprising:
a computer connected to said network computer system; and
a computer program for optimizing the use of at least one printing device accessible to said computer.

~~The method of claim 1, further comprising suggesting at least one service to incorporate with said at least one printing device for providing enhanced usage of said at least one printing device.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein said computer program for optimizing the use of at least one printing device is integrated with a device management program.

~~The method of claim 21, wherein said suggesting at least one service to incorporate with said at least one printing device comprises suggesting at least one service selected from the group consisting of a maintenance service, a charge per page service, and a printing device monitoring service.~~